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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

including the Report of the

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

for the year

**1960**





PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MANOR HOUSE,  
CHESHUNT.

June, 1961.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT.

I have the honour to present my fifteenth annual report together with that of the Public Health Inspector upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1960.

The report follows the general lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 1/61.

The population of Cheshunt continues to expand and vital statistics show that it remains a healthy place in which to live. The birth rate was slightly higher and the death rate lower than corresponding figures for the country as a whole. Unfortunately there was one maternal death during the year.

The incidence of infectious disease generally was low. Cases of scarlet fever and streptococcal infections were fewer than last year and there were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year. No case of diphtheria has been reported in Cheshunt since 1946. There were 27 sporadic cases of dysentery and only 3 cases of food poisoning.

The function of the health services is to promote conditions conducive to good health and details of the routine activities of the Department toward this objective are set out in the Report.

I should like again to record my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and to all members of the staff for their co-operation and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support in the work of the Department.

C. R. HILLIS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHUNT

## Public Health Committee, 1960-1961

Councillor G. B. WEST (Chairman)  
Councillor D. E. BREEZE  
Councillor W. F. BRYANT  
Councillor E. W. DOBBS, J.P.  
Councillor W. DRYDEN  
Councillor A. E. HENBEST  
Councillor Mrs. J. M. LOCKE  
Councillor Miss J. M. NEWELL  
Councillor L. C. PARKER

## Public Health Department Staff :

### *Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) :*

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.Ch.

Official Address: Manor House, Turner's Hill, Cheshunt,  
Herts.

Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 23381.

### *Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time) :*

JOHN A. CURRIE, M.B., B.S.

### *Senior Public Health Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, Inspector under the Shops Act :*

C. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

### *Additional Public Health Inspectors :*

S. C. BAKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
J. L. BILLINGS, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

### *Refuse Collection Supervisor :*

E. K. CLARK

(Transferred to Engineer and Surveyor's Department 1.7.60)

### *General :*

Clerk/Typist:  
Mrs. T. ATKINS

### *Clerk :*

R. C. LOCKWOOD

(Appointed as Assistant Public Health Inspector 1.4.60)

*Rodent Operative : P. F. DEAN (Retired 31.10.60)*

*W. J. PLASTOW (Commenced 7.11.60)*

# SECTION I

## STATISTICS

**AREA:** The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

**POPULATION:** Registrar-General's Estimate:

1949	21,490	1953	24,670	1957	28,050
1950	22,180	1954	25,350	1958	29,450
1951	23,290	1955	26,090	1959	31,110
1952	23,880	1956	27,000	1960	32,790
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books (at 31st March) ...			1960	1961	
Rateable Value	...	...	£448,415	£486,352	
Sum represented by penny rate	...		£1,843	£1,930	

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Male	Female	Total
Deaths from all causes	...	151	105	256
Live Births—Legitimate	...	353	317	670
Illegitimate	...	9	5	14
Still Births—Legitimate	...	11	6	17
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1

### Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

Legitimate	...	...	...	7	6	13
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1

### Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:

Legitimate	...	...	...	6	4	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

### Deaths of Infants under one week of age:

Legitimate	...	...	...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

## BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole the crude birth and death rates for the area should be multiplied by the area comparability factor supplied for the purpose by the General Register Office. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The adjusted rates for Cheshunt, together with the crude rates for England and Wales for comparison, are as follows:

### Death Rates.

	Crude Death Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1956	6.19	1.30	8.05	11.7
1957	7.27	1.32	9.60	11.5
1958	8.01	1.34	10.73	11.7
1959	7.26	1.38	10.02	11.6
1960	7.81	1.41	11.01	11.5

### Birth Rates.

	Crude Birth Rate	Comparability Factor	Adjusted Rate	England & Wales
1956	16.93	0.92	15.58	15.6
1957	17.15	0.91	15.61	16.1
1958	20.98	0.90	18.88	16.4
1959	20.60	0.89	18.33	16.5
1960	20.86	0.88	18.36	17.1 (prov.)

		1959	1960
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still), Cheshunt ...	...	7.74	25.64

### Maternal Mortality, Cheshunt:

Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	1	1
---	-----	-----	---	---

INFANT MORTALITY:

All infants per 1,000 live births

Year	Cheshunt			England and Wales	
			No. of Deaths	Rate	Rate
1951	...	...	...	11	27.85
1952	...	...	...	6	16.30
1953	...	...	...	10	28.33
1954	...	...	...	12	31.58
1955	...	...	...	4	10.44
1956	...	...	...	8	17.51
1957	...	...	...	7	14.55
1958	...	...	...	8	12.94
1959	...	...	...	8	12.48
1960	...	...	...	14	20.47
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate					19.01
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate					1.46
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (under 4 weeks)	...	...	...	...	14.62
Illegitimate live births % of total live births				...	2.05
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births					1.42

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING 1960:

		Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—

	Male	Female	Total
Measles ... ... ... ...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	6	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	—	11
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	5	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ... ... ... ...	13	5	18
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ...	1	—	1
Diabetes ... ... ... ...	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system .	15	19	34
Coronary disease, angina ... ...	31	9	40
Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	2	2
Other heart disease ... ...	22	14	36
Other circulatory disease ... ...	7	9	16
Influenza ... ... ... ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ... ... ...	8	9	17
Bronchitis ... ... ... ...	7	1	8
Other diseases of respiratory system .	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	2	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ...	—	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ...	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1	1
Congenital malformations ... ...	5	1	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	7	18
Motor vehicle accidents ... ...	7	1	8
All other accidents ... ...	4	4	8
Suicide ... ... ... ...	—	2	2
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
 All causes ... ... ... ...	151	105	256

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD SERVICES

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Health Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. Monday to Friday (inclusive) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC	Health Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. 1st Friday in each month. 2 to 5 p.m.
PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC	Tolmers Road, Cuffley. Monday 2 to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m.
CHEST CLINIC	Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey. Monday, 9.45 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 3.30 p.m.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE	Fire and Ambulance Station, Cheshunt. Establishment on 31st December, 1960: two shift leaders, eight ambulance drivers, one ambulance, one sitting case car.
DAY NURSERY	The Chestnuts, Waltham Cross (Waltham Cross 24878). 40 places for children 0 to 5 years.
HOME HELP SERVICE	Organiser: Mrs. M. Ellis, 194 High Street, Waltham Cross (Waltham Cross 24658). Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., Friday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Establishment of Home Helps at 31st December, 1960: 57. Cases assisted during 1960: 364.

**WELFARE CENTRES  
AND CLINICS**

Labour Hall, College Road, Cheshunt. Thursday, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends. Memorial Hall, Goff's Oak. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. Doctor attends.

Community Centre, Edmonton Estate, Flamstead End. Tuesday afternoon. Doctor attends 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month. (Waltham Cross 25156.)

Health Centre, rear of Greenfield House, High Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross 23401.)

Minor Ailments Clinic. Wednesday 9 to 10 a.m.

Mothers' Club. Wednesday evenings (alternate).

Immunisation and Special Cases. 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings. Doctor attends.

Dental Clinic—by appointment only.

Ophthalmic Clinic. Fridays 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Speech Therapy Clinic. Friday 9 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. and 1.30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic and Relaxation Classes. Mondays 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Doctor attends.

Infant Welfare Centre. Wednesday 1.45 to 4 p.m. Doctor attends.

Orthoptic. Friday a.m. and p.m.

**HEALTH VISITORS  
AND SCHOOL  
NURSES**

Miss J. M. Stewart, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross 23401.)

Mrs. I. Jorgensen, Welfare Centre, High Street, Waltham Cross.

	Miss M. E. Pawsey, Community Centre, Edmonton Estate, Flamstead End. (Waltham Cross 25156.)
	Miss J. P. Young, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak. (Cuffley 2420.)
DISTRICT NURSES AND MIDWIVES	Miss Skidmore, 178 High Street, Waltham Cross. (Waltham Cross 23127.)
	Miss M. Smith 24 Cromwell Avenue, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 23580.)
	Miss M. G. Brown, 87 Cuffley Hill, Goff's Oak. (Cuffley 2420.)
	Miss E. L. Day, Park Cottage, Flamstead End. (Waltham Cross 23410.)
	Miss G. D. Taylor, 1 Prescott Road, Cheshunt. (Waltham Cross 22344.)

## OTHER SERVICES

### BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

Sessions are held at the Health Centre, Waltham Cross, at intervals of approximately six weeks. Dates of future sessions and further information may be obtained from Miss E. Munns, Honorary Organiser, National Blood Transfusion Service, 49 Blindman's Lane, Cheshunt. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 23026.

### BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Society has a range of medical equipment for the sick and injured, available on loan on the recommendation of Medical Practitioners and District Nurses. The equipment is at 194 High Street, Waltham Cross. Telephone No.: Waltham Cross 24658.

In addition to their normal activities, the local Detachment have available a team which is on call for disaster relief work under the Commandant, Mrs. M. Ellis, 665 Goff's Lane, Cheshunt.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

A hospital laboratory service is available at Chase Farm Hospital and at the Hertford County Hospital. Larger scale facilities are available at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, and the Regional Public Heath Laboratory, Luton.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951.

During the year one case was brought to the notice of the Council of an elderly lady living in insanitary conditions who was unable to devote to herself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. The house in which she lived was unsit and the subject of an undertaking from the owner not to use the house for human habitation after the present tenancy ended.

The immediate problem was solved by the Council offering alternative accommodation in a single unit dwelling, and by the assistance of relatives and the Home Help Service.

## MORTUARY.

The mortuary is situated in a building at Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year, eight bodies were received in the mortuary.

## W.V.S. MEALS SERVICE.

A Meals on Wheels service for house-bound people nominated from statutory welfare sources is operated by the W.V.S., the Council paying a subsidy on the cost of the meals.

## SECTION III

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during 1959 and 1960:—

	1959 Cases Notified	1960		
		Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	... 57	41	—	—
Measles ...	... 713	104	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	... 16	101	—	—
Pneumonia ...	... 40	25	3	17
Erysipelas ...	... 5	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	... 3	1	1	—
Acute Encephalitis ...	—	1	1	—
Dysentery ...	... 14	27	1	—
Food Poisoning ...	... 18	3	—	—
Ophthalmia				
Neonatorum ...	... 3	1	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	... 10	13	8	1
Meningococcal				
Infection ...	... 1	1	1	—
Para-typhoid ...	... 1	—	—	—

#### MEASLES.

Notifications of Measles in the last ten years are shown in the following table:—

Year				Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1951	...	...	...	... 580	24.90
1952	...	...	...	... 199	8.33
1953	...	...	...	... 660	26.75
1954	...	...	...	... 4	0.16
1955	...	...	...	... 740	28.36
1956	...	...	...	... 58	2.15
1957	...	...	...	... 622	22.17
1958	...	...	...	... 66	2.10
1959	...	...	...	... 713	22.92
1960	...	...	...	... 104	3.17

## WHOOPING COUGH.

The incidence of this disease over the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Year					Cases Notified	Notifications per 1,000 population
1951	...	...	...	...	71	3.05
1952	...	...	...	...	88	3.10
1953	...	...	...	...	247	10.01
1954	...	...	...	...	32	1.26
1955	...	...	...	...	6	0.23
1956	...	...	...	...	98	3.63
1957	...	...	...	...	127	4.53
1958	...	...	...	...	1	0.03
1959	...	...	...	...	16	0.51
1960	...	...	...	...	101	3.08

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases of Tuberculosis in 1960 was 13 compared with 10 cases in 1959.

New Cases, 1960—classified by age groups:—

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0— 5	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	1
25—35	2	—	—	—	2
35—45	2	—	2	1	5
45—55	1	—	—	—	1
55—65	2	2	—	—	4
65 Upwards	—	—	—	—	—
	7	3	2	1	13

	1959	1960
Number of cases from other areas transferred to Cheshunt	...	24

There was one death attributed to Tuberculosis in Cheshunt during 1960.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relate respectively to infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis and engaged in the handling of milk and to the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis.

## SECTION IV

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION OF THE AREA

#### REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

##### INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year numbered 2,496 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 489 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

##### SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	377
Number of premises other than houses inspected	...						719
Premises re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	357
Visits to works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	803
							2,496

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:—

Visits to Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
„ „ places of public entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ Swimming baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
„ re keeping animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
„ „ Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
„ „ collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
„ „ infectious diseases and disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
„ „ drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
„ „ verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Visits to houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	6
.. re alleged overcrowding	...	...	...	36
.. .. smoke control	...	...	...	252
.. .. improvement grants	...	...	...	131
.. to nurseries re health and welfare	...	...	...	24

Details of inspections of food premises and factories are given in the appropriate sections of the Report.

#### CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

Thirteen demolition orders were made during the year, bringing the total number of individual unfit houses dealt with since 1953 to 155.

No closing orders were made and no action was taken under the Clearance Area procedure of the Housing Act, 1957, during the year.

Houses dealt with in 1960 were as follows:—

#### DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Address		Date	Order Made
48 Albury Grove Road	...	...	7.2.60
50 Albury Grove Road	...	...	7.2.60
1 Turner's Hill	...	...	7.2.60
3 Turner's Hill	...	...	7.2.60
11 Turner's Hill	...	...	7.2.60
87 Longfield Lane	...	...	7.2.60
7 Hatton Road	...	...	7.2.60
9 Hatton Road	...	...	7.2.60
11 Hatton Road	...	...	7.2.60
13 Hatton Road	...	...	7.2.60
15 Hatton Road	...	...	7.2.60
17 Hatton Road	...	...	7.2.60
Rose Cottage, 1 Cecil Road	...	2.7.60	

Nineteen houses were demolished and one closed during the year; this number includes houses on which Orders were made in previous years.

In 1955 the Council submitted to the Minister a slum clearance programme for dealing with 60 unfit houses in five years. This programme has been completed and in addition a further 55 unfit houses have been demolished.

At the suggestion of the Minister the position was reviewed during the year and the Council decided to inform the Minister that clearance of all unfit houses in the district has at any rate for the time being been completed. It may be that one or two houses may be found to be unfit on inspection from time to time and could be dealt with as they arise, but they do not exist in sufficient numbers to warrant further slum clearance proposals.

#### RENT ACT, 1957.

Details of applications for Certificates of Disrepair and applications for cancellation of Certificates during the year are as follows:—

Number of applications for certificates	...	...	2
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	—	
Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	2
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	1
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	1
Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	1
Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	—
Number of certificates issued	...	...	2
Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	2
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	—		
Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	...	...	—
Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	2

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year the Council approved 14 applications for standard improvement grants. 5 applications were refused, 4 of these being for houses in proposed redevelopment areas.

Under the standard grant scheme house-owners and certain leaseholders can obtain as a right, half the cost, up to a maximum of £155, of installing five basic improvements—a bath or shower, a wash hand basin, a water closet, a hot water system and food store.

Eighteen applications for discretionary improvement grants were received during the year and of these 15 were approved in respect of works of improvement estimated to cost in total £6,794. Under the discretionary grant scheme half the estimated cost of works for the modernisation of older houses may be paid, at the discretion of the Council, subject to a maximum grant of £400.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected since 1945:

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt	...	1,497
By the Edmonton Borough Council	...	694
By the Tottenham Borough Council	...	185
By Private Enterprise	...	3,108
		5,484

Number of houses erected during 1960:

By the Urban District Council of Cheshunt	...	38
By Private Enterprise	...	496
		534

# INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

## 1. INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	3	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ... ...	106	50	12	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	109	50	12	—

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	—	—	1	—
Insufficient ...	11	2	—	11	—
Total ...	12	2	—	12	—

### 3. OUTWORK.

There is one factory only in this area submitting lists of outworkers required by Section 110 of the Act. The nature of the work is the making of wearing apparel and the number of outworkers in the August list was 212. There were no cases of default in sending lists to the Council during the year and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

Sixteen inspections were made of outworkers' premises and they were found to be satisfactory.

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959. MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

The function of District Councils of certifying means of escape from factories in case of fire was transferred to the County Council as the Fire Authority with effect from 1st December, 1960.

### PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Under Regulation 5 of the Hertfordshire (Music and Dancing) Regulations, 1955, all new applications to the County Council for a licence must be accompanied by a letter from the County District Council stating whether there is any objection on sanitary grounds to the licensing of the premises.

Two new applications were dealt with during the year and these premises satisfied the sanitary accommodation code adopted by the Council.

### SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	...	...	...	...	3
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	...	...	...	21
Statutory Notices under Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936, re drainage	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory Notices under Section 79, Public Health Act, 1936, re maintenance of sewer	...	...	...	...	8
Statutory Notices under Section 159, Housing Act, 1957, of intention to enter houses for survey	...	...	...	...	6

## SUMMARY

Statutory Notices requiring defects in dwelling-houses to be remedied:—

Served 1960	...	...	3	Complied with, 1960	...	2
Outstanding, 31st Dec.,			—	Complied with by		—
1959	...	...	—	Council in default		—
				Outstanding, 31st Dec.,		
				1960	...	1
			—			—
			3			3
			—			—

Intimation Notices:—

Outstanding, 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	40
Outstanding, 31st December, 1960	...	...	...	41
Served during 1960	...	...	...	88
Complied with during 1960	...	...	...	87

### WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. All dwelling-houses in the district are supplied from public mains direct to the houses with the exception of the following premises, where water is obtained from private sources:—

Aqueduct Lock House. River Lea Bank.

Aqueduct Lock Cottage. River Lea Bank.

Cheshunt Lock House. River Lea Bank.

Plantation Cottage. River Lea Bank.

Housemoors Cottage, Halfhide Lane.

New River Cottage, Halfhide Lane.

Theobalds Secondary Modern School, Theobalds Park.

Theobalds Lodge, Theobalds Park.

Theobalds Cottage, Theobalds Park.

Cottage, South Villa Nursery, Park Lane.

During the year thirty samples for bacteriological examination were taken from these private sources of supply and twenty-two samples were reported upon as satisfactory and eight as unsatisfactory. Where an unsatisfactory result was obtained an investigation was made and the cause was found to be either pollution of storage tanks or inadequate maintenance of domestic filters.

#### SEWERAGE.

The Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:—

“The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district are satisfactory. There still remain a certain number of premises in the area which are drained to cesspools or septic tanks. A number of these will continue to be so drained for an indefinite period since they are situated in outlying areas and remote from any sewerage facilities.

The Council have recently spent approximately £110,000 in laying a relief trunk sewer and at the present time through estate development, certain of the premises in Cuffley Hill which have previously been sewered through cesspools and septic tanks will be connected to main drainage. There is a possibility that further premises will be connected to this sewer at a later date when a suitable scheme can be prepared.”

#### SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no publicly owned baths or pools in the area.

#### CHESHUNT SWIMMING CLUB.

This swimming pool is privately owned and it is operated on the fill and empty system with water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A drip feed chlorinator is used and partial circulation of the water is obtained by pumping. Four samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

#### CHESHUNT GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The water used in the bath is obtained from the Metropolitan Water Board and a continuous filtration and chlorination plant is installed. Four samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the season and were found to be satisfactory.

## THEOBALDS SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL.

This swimming pool is operated on the fill and empty system with water from a chlorinated supply at the school. Supplementary chlorination is carried out manually. Two samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination and both were reported upon as satisfactory.

## CARAVANS.

The regulation of caravans in Cheshunt prior to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, was obtained by the use of planning powers and the issue of consents under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935. The new Act, which came into effect on 29th August, 1960, strengthened the powers of Planning Authorities and introduced a new licensing system.

The Act required the occupiers of existing sites to apply for site licences before 29th October, 1960, and in the case of those sites with specific planning permission the Council were required to grant the licence within two months. Conditions may be attached to the site licence and in deciding on conditions regard must be had to the model standard prescribed by the Minister.

Three applications in respect of sites with specific planning permission were determined during the year as follows:—

Goff's Oak House, 617 Goff's Lane. Site Licence for 23 caravans granted subject to works being completed within twelve months.

The Willows, Waltham Cross. Site Licence for 60 caravans granted subject to works being completed within two years.

Rosebury Pig Farm, Crouch Lane. Site Licence for one caravan granted for the period to 31st December, 1961.

## INFESTATION.

Contact insecticides are used where necessary to combat infestation and no steam disinfection of bedding or clothing was undertaken during the year.

The assistance of the Department was as usual sought in dealing with a variety of insect infestations including head lice, house flies, ants and bugs, but wasps were not nearly so troublesome as during 1959, when 285 nests were treated compared with 70 in 1960.

Where work is undertaken by the Department to combat infestation a charge is made.

The "Gooseberry or Clover Mite" again gave cause for complaint on the Church Lane Council Housing Estate, but the decline in numbers of this pest appears to be continuing. The mites feed on plant juices and migrate from areas of grass into the adjoining dwelling-houses. They are harmless to humans and will not damage furniture or fabrics.

Treatment of the affected grass areas with suitable insecticides was carried out.

Bed bugs are rarely seen nowadays but in July, following a request for the identification of an insect, an inspection of the house concerned showed the bedroom to be heavily infested with bed bugs. A similar complaint received on the following day from another occupier in the same road revealed that this house also was infested with bed bugs. Both houses were disinfested and enquiries were made in the vicinity but no further case of infestation was found.

## RODENT CONTROL.

Year ended 31st March, 1961.

	Type of Property			All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural		
Total Number of properties	7	10,279	132	1,543	11,961
Number of properties inspected	1	191	9	25	226
Number of properties found to be infested by rats	Major	1	2	—	4
	Minor	—	119	5	139
Number of properties found to be infested by mice	—	—	10	2	14
Number of infested properties treated	... ... ...	131	7	18	157
“Block” Treatments	...	—	—	—	—

Treatment of infestation of private dwellings is carried out free of charge but charges are made for rodent control work done at other premises.

There are approximately 600 manholes on the soil sewerage system. In November 61 manholes were baited and bait takes were recorded at 14 manholes.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A regular collection of house and trade refuse is made at weekly intervals throughout the district and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in gravel pits at Albury Ride, Cheshunt, and at Lodge Hollow, Hoddesdon.

With effect from 1st July, the supervision of the refuse collection and disposal service was transferred from the Public Health Department to the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

The separate collection of kitchen waste in communal street bins was discontinued on 29th February, when the existing contract expired.

## REFUSE DUMPS.

Dumping of refuse is controlled by consents granted by the County Council and the District Council under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

No new consents were granted during the year.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Two licences to keep pet shops were granted during the year and the conditions recommended by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals were incorporated in the licences.

## AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

### SANITARY CONVENIENCES ON AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS.

The Act places on local authorities the duty of requiring in certain circumstances the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms and other agricultural holdings where workers are employed.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture a brief report was prepared on action taken under the Act and on general conditions in the area. Of 24 holdings inspected, requests were made in respect of 3 holdings that the occupier should improve the sanitary accommodation provided. At the remaining holdings the accommodation was satisfactory.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956—SMOKE CONTROL AREA NO. 1.

In September the Minister of Housing and Local Government gave provisional clearance to the Council's proposals to establish a smoke control area and a detailed survey of the area was carried out.

Of 306 dwellings in the proposed area, 280 new appliances to burn smokeless fuel were found to be necessary in 178 dwellings. Gas ignition is required for 285 appliances.

The Smoke Control Order was made by the Council in December and submitted to the Minister for confirmation. The area is bounded by Windmill Lane on the north, railway line from Cheshunt Station to Theobalds Grove Station on the east and south, and by Crossbrook Street/Turner's Hill on the west.

The Order, which will impose a ban on all smoke from the chimney of any building, including houses, in the area, will come into operation on 1st November, 1961.

Where fireplaces have to be adapted to avoid contravention of the Order, grants of seven-tenths of the cost of approved work will be available from the local authority.

Domestic appliances installed in all new buildings are required by Building Byelaws to be capable of burning smokeless fuel or otherwise capable of smokeless operation. There is no statutory obligation to use smokeless fuel, however, until a smoke control area is created.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS.

The number of food premises in the area classified according to type of business is as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	42
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	65
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	19
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	8
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	75
Cafés, Caterers	...	...	...	...	...	27
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	5

During the year 561 visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale as detailed in the following table:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	137
Butcher Shops	...	...	...	...	...	25
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	45
Cafés and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	28
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other Food Shops and Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	303

### FOOD CONDEMNED.

At premises other than slaughterhouses, the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

Foods of all description	...	14,796	tins and jars
Ham	...	189	lbs.
Liver	...	10	lbs.
Fish	...	156	lbs.
Chickens	...	22	

There are in Cheshunt two wholesale warehouses handling considerable quantities of tinned and packaged foodstuffs, and this accounts for the large number of tinned foods of all descriptions surrendered as unfit.

In October one of these firms sought the opinion of the Department on a consignment of 600 tins of imported chopped ham and chopped pork, since a number of the cans were found to be slightly bowed at the ends or sides. The tins were of the 4 lb. size and were intended for distribution to retail shops for sale in small quantities, sliced. One can of ham and one can of pork were opened but apart from some discolouration of the tin there was no sign of decomposition, or other abnormality.

The assistance of the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, was sought and they made an examination of six tins which were "flippers" or had slightly "puffy" sides. The laboratory report stated "these tins appear to be bacteriologically satisfactory. All the tins were over-filled and this fact and possible under-exhausting of the cans could account for the slight pressure in some of them. The tins of pressed ham were not sterile but as is usual in this type of product contained a few aerobic sporing bacilli which did not increase in number after three days' incubation at 37° Centigrade or 22° Centigrade. The tins of chopped pork and cereal were sterile. The tins should be stored according to the instructions on the label, that is, "in a cool place".

#### FOOD COMPLAINTS.

Ten complaints were received relating to foodstuffs which had been sold in Cheshunt. Six concerned foreign matter in bottles of milk and in all these cases the bottles about which complaint was made were submitted to the Public Analyst, whose reports showed that three bottles contained used aluminium foil bottle caps which had been through the bottle washing process; one contained mould growth, one had a streak of brown material which proved to be soil, and the last had a taint suggestive of methylated spirit, but chemical analysis failed to reveal the presence of any trace of methylated spirit.

One complaint alleged that steak and kidney was unsound at the time of purchase and two others concerned bread, one where a dead fly was found in a roll and another where a flour sack label was found in a loaf. Warnings were issued by the Council in all these cases.

A third complaint relating to bread alleged that a loaf contained a rodent pellet. The laboratory report stated that the foreign matter, which resembled a rodent pellet in appearance, was shown to consist of a conglomeration of flour or dough together with particles of bran, a little oil and a few dust particles. The appearance and composition of the foreign matter were consistent with it being a deposit of dough, possibly made from brown flour, derived from part of the bakery apparatus. It was not rodent in origin and would not have been harmful if consumed. In view of the nature of this report the Council decided to take no further action.

Two complaints made to other local authorities regarding foodstuffs packed in Cheshunt were investigated. Both related to larvae infestation, one in a packet of flaked rice and the other in a packet of currants and sultanas. The investigations failed to trace the source of the infestation.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

As required by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, the Council reviewed the existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughterhouse facilities and submitted their report to the Minister. The Council do not propose to provide a new public slaughterhouse. No additional slaughtering facilities are considered to be necessary in Cheshunt.

The present slaughtering requirements are largely met by slaughterhouses in Enfield, Waltham Abbey and Ware. Many retailers obtain supplies from the Central Meat Market, Smithfield.

There is only one slaughterhouse in the area and the owner stated his intention of bringing the premises up to the standard required by the construction regulations. The licence was renewed until 31st July, 1961, subject to the carrying out of the necessary works.

One hundred and sixty-seven visits were made to the slaughterhouse during the year and details of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned are shown in the following table:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed if known	135	—	10	817	81	—
Number inspected	... 135	—	10	817	81	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	12	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	...	...	8.8	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	2	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	1.5	—	—	—	1.2
<i>Cysticerci :</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	...	—	—	—	—	—

#### METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned foodstuffs are buried with suitable precautions at the Council's Refuse Disposal Tip or are sent to the Refuse Incineration Plant of an adjoining authority.

## LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN.

Licences were granted under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, to three applicants to slaughter animals in a slaughterhouse by the captive bolt method.

## REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, together with the number of inspections is shown in the following table:—

Premises	No.	No. of Inspections
Ice Cream Premises ...	78	45
Food Preparing Premises ...	24	25
Dairies ... ... ...	4	5

## ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1959.

No contraventions were recorded of the Regulations regarding temperature at which ice cream is to be kept or as to protection from contamination.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

## ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Examination of ice cream samples is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, by the methylene blue test, and samples are graded according to Ministry of Health provisional grades. Plate counts on the samples and presumptive tests for B.Coli are not carried out.

During the year 52 samples were submitted for examination. The results were as follows:—

Grade I	...	...	50	96.15%
Grade II	...	...	2	3.85%
Grade III	...	...	—	—
Grade IV	...	...	—	—

The methylene blue test is not a statutory test and the Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50%

of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade I, 80% into Grades I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

Since all the samples were placed in Grades I or II, the results for the year were highly satisfactory.

#### MILK SAMPLING.

Ten samples of milk from various retailers were submitted for laboratory examination during the year. All the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

The County Council undertake sampling for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus. No report of the presence of either of these organisms was received during the year.

#### MILK LICENCES.

Licences were granted for the year 1960 as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested—Dealer's Licence	...	...	8
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	...	5
Pasteurised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	6
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	5
Sterilised—Dealer's Licence	...	...	20
Sterilised—Supplementary Licence	...	...	5

#### FOOD SAMPLES EXAMINED BY PUBLIC ANALYST.

The Urban District Councils' Association asked Food and Drugs Authorities to assist the Food Standards Committee by arranging for a representative number of samples of meat pies to be collected over a period of six months and for detailed information about them to be supplied by the Public Analyst. The Food Standards Committee were considering whether statutory regulation is necessary and practical and what would be the appropriate minimum meat content or what other requirement might be desirable if statutory control were to be recommended.

Twenty meat pies were submitted to the Public Analyst in connection with this investigation and the meat content of the pies varied from 13.8% to 44.3%.

Six milk bottles and their contents were submitted for examination as the result of complaints that they contained foreign matter.

Fourteen informal samples were submitted for analysis as follows:—

Sample No.	Article	Sample No.	Article
187	Dressed Crab	194	Crab Fish Paste
188	Salmon Spread	195	Herb Tablets
189	Veal Curry	196	Anchovies
190	Lemon Juice	197	Tomato Puree
191	Camphorated Oil	198	Pheasant Soup
192	Lung Syrup	199	Butterscotch
193	Nervine Tablets	200	Table Jelly

All fourteen samples were reported upon as genuine.

#### GELATINE SURVEY.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, as part of an investigation into possible sources of food poisoning organisms, asked for the assistance of the Council in the collection and submission to the laboratory of samples of gelatine.

Gelatine was sampled in various parts of the country from factories, gelatine merchants and retail shops. Eighteen samples were submitted from Cheshunt, all of which proved negative. A total of 225 samples were examined and no salmonella organisms were isolated.

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